

**Graduate School of Public Health**  
**San Diego State University**  
**PH 700C**  
**OEH Research Methods**  
**(thesis prep course)**  
**Spring 2007**

Instructor: **Dr. PJE Quintana (Jenny)**

Contact Information:

Office: **Hepner Hall 105**

Phone number: **619-594-1688**

Office hours: **Wed 2:00 – 3:30 pm or by appt**

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*students are encouraged to communicate by e-mail*

**Course time and place:**

Wed 6 – 6:50 (may meet at other times) in Hardy Tower 222

**Course Objectives:**

To provide a structured format for instruction and discussion of elements of research - focusing on the thesis proposal and research process at SDSU GSPH, Division of Occupational and Environmental Health. Students may either be at the stage of developing a thesis proposal, at the stage of gathering data, or be writing the thesis.

Specifically this course will allow the student to

1. Be able to rapidly and efficiently search and retrieve print, database, and internet information in the area of environmental health.

2. Have the appropriate computer skills to store, analyze, and present information from print, database, and world wide web sources.
3. Be able to interpret and discuss scientific findings and be able to complete a formal scientific research paper describing and interpreting results.
4. Be able to analyze and critique experimental research designs in environmental health science
5. Improve skills in scientific writing and in analysis and presentation of scientific data
6. Be able to present information in Environmental Health in a clear, orderly and focused manner, and to be able to answer questions about environmental health during a presentation.

### **Course evaluation**

Student presentation 25%

Student contracts 50%

Class Participation/ short assignments 25%

### **Oral Presentations:**

Learning to present information is an important part of graduate student training. The oral presentations will consist of the student making an approx. 20 minute presentation followed by approx. 15 minutes of questions. The level of the information presented should be targeted towards public health professionals who are not necessarily in the field of environmental health. The presentation will be graded 50% on clarity, 25% on technical content and 25% on preparedness.

Course Outline: PH 700 C

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE - MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

**Date Subject**

Jan 24 Introduction to thesis/proposal process/ Elements of a Proposal/ Thesis

Jan 31 **MEET 6:00 pm HT 222** from now on

Introduction/ Statement of Hypothesis and Specific Aims

Feb 7 Scientific writing 1/ *Sign contract form*

Feb 14 Scientific writing 1I

Feb 21 Searching the scientific literature / /Review of scientific articles for  
literature review section (exercise)

Feb 28 Reference management

Mar 7 Study Design/

Mar 14 Preparing for the thesis defense **MOCK DEFENSE need a volunteer**

Mar 21 Field Trip – Biomedical Library at UCSD

Mar 28 *SPRING BREAK*

Apr 4 Statistical Analysis/ Statistical analysis – exercise

Apr 11 Graphical and Tabular Presentation of Data

April 18 Discussion section

Apr 25 **Student Presentations**

May 2 **Student Presentations**

**NO FINAL EXAM -**

NOTE: INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SYLLABUS MAY BE CHANGED  
WITHOUT NOTICE

Readings for the course will be available through BLACKBOARD web site for class.

**Blackboard Web site:**

There is a web site for this course . (<http://blackboard.sdsu.edu/>)

**You should already be enrolled – check that this is true!**

What is on the website:

**Announcements and reminders**

**Syllabus and updates**

**Handouts – (some)**

**Web links to assigned reading**

**Web links to useful sites**

**Discussion boards**

Please at a minimum check the site weekly BEFORE class.